

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 IO-06 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-05 AID-05 DEAE-00 OMB-01 OES-02 USIA-01 PRS-01
PA-01 SP-02 PM-03 EB-04 IGA-01 /056 W
-----068811 180029Z /72-65

R 171125Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4038
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5741

LIMDIS

STATE FOR S/NM, NEA

DEPARTMENT PASS USAID/W, DEA (FOR BENSINGER)

PARIS FOR DEA

WHITE HOUSE FOR BOURNE AND O'KEEFFE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AF, US, SNAR
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD: NARCOTICS

1. IN MY CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD ON AUGUST 17,
I TOLD HIM THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SITUATION IS A MAJOR
CONCERN OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THAT IN THIS
CONNECTION, WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN SUCH
COUNTRIES AS MEXICO AND TURKEY, THE IMPORTANCE OF AFGHANISTAN
IS INCREASING. I TOLD HIM THAT, AS HE KNEW FROM AMBASSADOR
KARIM, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN AN INTEREST IN
THE AFGHAN NARCOTICS SITUATION.

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2. I WENT ON TO TELL DAOUD THAT WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE JOINT
AFGHAN-UN-US COMMISSION WHICH MET JULY 27 IN KABUL HAD FOCUSED
ON A SPECIFIC AREA, NAMELY THE UPPER HELMAND. I SAID A UNITED
NATIONS SPECIALIST IS ARRIVING ON AUGUST 17 IN KABUL TO REVIEW
THE PROSPECTS FOR CROP AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS IN THAT
AREA. I ADDED THAT IT IS OUR HOPE THE WORK IN THE UPPER

HELMAND WILL POINT TO POSSIBILITIES FOR SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN
OTHER OPIUM PRODUCING AREAS OF AFGHANISTAN.

3. I THEN WENT ON TO SAY TO DAOUD THAT WE HOPE HIS GOVT CAN
TAKE SOME MEASURES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO REDUCE THE AREA
THAT WILL BE SOWN WITH POPPIES THIS PLANTING SEASON. I SAID IT
WOULD BE PRESUMPTIVE OF ME TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS
TO HOW HIS GOVT MIGHT DO THIS, BUT THAT WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE
A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. COMMENT: I DID NOT SUGGEST HE
ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT BECAUSE I BELIEVE HE WOULD CONCLUDE
SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE SOWING OF
POPPIES, BUT WOULD ALSO DAMAGE HIS PRESTIGE IN THE TRIBAL
AREAS WHERE POPPIES ARE GROWN BECAUSE AT THE MOMENT HE CAN-
NOT STOP PRODUCTION OR OFFER INCOME SUBSTITUTES. I FEEL IT IS
BETTER FOR US TO STATE OUR CONCERN AND OUR DESIRE AND LET HIM
CHOOSE HIS METHODS. END COMMENT.

4. IN RESPONSE, DAOUD ASSURED ME HE TAKES THIS QUESTION VERY
SERIOUSLY. HE SAID HE WANTED TO REPEAT HIS PROMISE THAT HIS
GOVT WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ERADICATE POPPY GROWING IN
THE HELMAND AREA. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION
IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT IN NANGARHAR, HIS GOVT ALSO INTENDS TO DO
WHAT IT CAN THERE AS WELL. THE ONLY AREA IN WHICH HE SEES NO
POSSIBILITY FOR EARLY ACTION IS BADA KHSHAN BECAUSE THE PEOPLE
OF THAT PROVINCE DEPEND SO SUBSTANTIALLY ON OPIUM FOR A LIVING.
DAOUD ADDED WITH A SMILE THAT HE IS VERY MUCH AWARE THAT POPPY
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PRODUCTION INCREASED IN AFGHANISTAN THIS LAST CROP YEAR.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770297-0779
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770854/aaaabteu.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: SNAR, US, AF, (ELIOT, THEODORE L JR), (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
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